

Appl. No. 10/815,201 Attorney Docket No.: N1280-00180 (TSMC2003-1083)
Reply dated: 09/19/2006
Supplemental Response to Office Action dated 04/20/2006
and Advisory Action dated 08/25/2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Supplemental Response is responsive to the Advisory Action mailed 08/25/2006 and further to the telephone interview between Examiner Fenty and Applicants' undersigned representative Mark J. Marcelli, that took place on 5 September 13, 2006.

First and foremost, Applicants take this opportunity to thank Examiner Fenty for the opportunity for their undersigned representative to discuss this application in said telephonic interview.

Claims 1 and 3-31 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 3-25 were rejected in the April 20, 2006 Office action and claims 26-31 had been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-7 and 26-31 have been cancelled with claims 8-25 currently pending. Claim 8 is hereby amended.

Each of independent claims 8 and 15 recite the feature of the continuous silicide layer forming a sidewall butted connection structure connecting drain nodes of an 15 NMOS transistor and a PMOS transistor. As discussed with Examiner Fenty, this feature is not taught by the Noda (USPN 6,512,299 D1) reference.

In particular, claim 8 has been amended pursuant to the conversation with Examiner Fenty and now recites the feature of:

20 a continuous silicide layer formed thereon serving as an intra-cell connection layer connecting at least a drain node of a PMOS transistor to a drain node of an NMOS transistor.

Claim 15 recites the feature of:

25 a first inverter having a first PMOS transistor and a first NMOS transistor; and
a sidewall butted connection structure used in conjunction with a gate interconnect layer for connecting drain nodes of the transistors of the first inverter.

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Noda is limited to connecting two transistors sharing a common drain node and therefore cannot and does not teach the above-recited feature of connecting a drain node of a PMOS transistor to a drain node of an NMOS transistor.

Independent claims 8 and 15 are therefore distinguished from Noda as discussed
5 in the Examiner Interview and for reasons set forth in Applicants' previous response
filed July 20, 2006. Moreover, the secondary references of Bryant (USPN 6,436,744
B1) and Sundaresan (USPN 5,298,782) do not make up for the above-stated
deficiencies of Noda also as set forth in the July 20, 2006 Response. Claims 9-14
depend from claim 8 and claims 16-25 depend from claim 15 and each of these claims
10 is therefore also distinguished from the references of Noda, Bryant and Sundaresan,
taken alone or in combination.

As such, the rejection of claims 8-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as appeared in
the April 20, 2006 Office Action for being unpatentable over Noda in view of Bryant and
further in view of Sundaresan, should be withdrawn.

15 Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 8-25 is in allowable form.

Applicants thank Examiner Fenty for indicating, in the aforementioned
September 13, 2006 Examiner Interview, that the aforementioned amendment to claim
8 does not introduce new issues.

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CONCLUSION

Since the amendment to claim 8 does not introduce new issues and since claims 8-25 are distinguished from the references of record, Applicants earnestly solicit the Examiner to enter the aforementioned amendments and allow the application including
5 claims 8-25. Such action is respectfully and expeditiously requested.

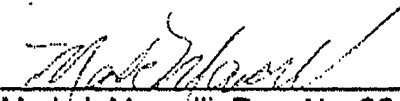
The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication, to Deposit Account 04-1679.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 19, 2006


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